



ELK GROVE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

Fire ■ Emergency Medical Services ■ Parks & Recreation

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

8820 Elk Grove Blvd., Suite 3, Elk Grove, CA 95624
(916) 405-5300 ■ (916) 685-6942 fax ■ www.egcsd.ca.gov

For Immediate Release

March 23, 2004

Contact: Jerry Fox

(916) 405-5311 or

jerryfox@egcsd.ca.gov

DAMAGED OAK TO BE REMOVED AT ELK GROVE REGIONAL PARK

Elk Grove, CA -- Following recommendations by four certified arborists, the Elk Grove Community Services District will remove a diseased and damaged valley oak at Elk Grove Regional Park. The tree is the fourth such oak specimen to be removed from the Park within the last year due to disease and decay.

The tree proposed for the latest removal is located in Area 9, adjacent to the park's main entrance. A large rotted gash in the trunk has compromised the integrity of the tree at the base and forced CSD parks officials to order its removal in the interest of safety.

"This tree's massive branches extend over the largest and most heavily used picnic area in the park. According to the arborists, the tree poses an imminent hazard to park users. Knowing what we know about its condition, we cannot in good conscience leave the tree standing and risk injuries to park visitors," said Deputy Parks Administrator, Jerry Fox.

Elk Grove Regional Park is home to the largest public collection of native oaks within the City of Elk Grove. Many of the oaks are estimated to be in excess of 200 years old. Over time, however, some of the oaks have begun to "fail." Last June, the County Department of Parks & Recreation removed three oak trees of similar size and age at the Park due to safety concerns. Since September, the Elk Grove Community Services District has assumed maintenance and operations responsibilities at the park. Removal of the latest oak has been reviewed and approved by both the CSD and the County's governing bodies.

As part of the District's urban forestry management program, parks staff have planted a 24 inch box oak tree of the same species for each oak removed from the park. Other trees requiring removal, not of the oak species, have also been replaced by oak varieties.

"They may be smaller, but in one hundred years, our great great grandchildren will be able to admire and appreciate these trees the same way we have," said Fox.

Removal of the tree in area nine is scheduled for later this month.

#

ELK GROVE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

"Your Independent Local Government Agency Providing Parks, Recreation, Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services"